

# *Bible Correspondence Course*

## *Lesson Two*

### CHRIST'S NEW COVENANT

The prophet Jeremiah said, “*behold, the days come, saith the lord, that I will make a **New Covenant** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah*” (Jeremiah 31:31). The new covenant meant a new and different agreement between God and man. This new covenant is the New Testament, and involves all men rather than only the Israelites. It contains the will of God, and directs man to eternity with God. As the Old Testament was a covenant with certain people, so the New Testament is the spiritual guide for all mankind in these “last days”

The New Covenant, or second division of the Bible is also referred to as the New Testament, and Jesus is said to be “*the mediator of the New Testament that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance*” (Hebrews 9:15).

There are twenty-seven (27) books in the New Covenant. Eight (8) writers took part in recording the will of God. The time of writing lasted from a few years after the death of Jesus until almost the close of the century, when the Apostle John wrote the last of his work. The original writings were written in Greek and later translated into over one thousand (1000) different languages. One of the best known translations is the **King James** which was translated from the Greek into English by forty-seven great scholars in the year 1611 A.D.

It should always be remembered that before the New Testament was written that men who spoke God's word were guided by the Holy Spirit. The writers of the New Testament were also directed by the same force. When the New Covenant was written down for permanent record which could be translated into all tongues, this guidance of the Holy Spirit ceased. The Bible has reached every corner of the world, and out-sells all other books. The fact that God has the ability and power to provide such a book for mankind reveals the fact that through His providence He has protected it from destruction at the hands of enemies. Our faith in God to have this power refutes the dogma that any one religious group kept and protected it.

When we study about the Bible we notice several things that are not really a part of the Bible itself. For example, we note in some translations that dates have been placed in the margin to give the reader some idea of when it was written. The fact is, that the writers of the New Testament did not date their writings. Several other examples could be cited, but remember to read and study the verse of scripture rather than the notes. However, by a careful study of the contents of the different books a fairly accurate date can be given to each book.

## HISTORIC FACTS ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

These eight (8) men have been accepted by the scholars through the ages as men God chose to write down His will for mankind. We shall consider briefly some things about each in order better acquaint us with Bible facts.

### Matthew

Matthew wrote the book that bears his name. Although his gospel is the first book in the New Testament it does not mean that it was the first written. Scholars have dated it around 60 A.D., perhaps a little later, but at least during that decade.

Matthew was a publican, a collector of taxes for the Roman government from the Jews. The reputation of most collectors was wicked, and caused much resentment from the Jewish people. Nevertheless, Matthew was one of those the Lord chose to be an Apostle as well as a writer. He was also known as Levi.

### Mark

Mark wrote the gospel accompanied by his name. References to this young man in the Bible are numerous. He was a nephew of Barnabas. He is mentioned as being a fellow-traveler with Paul and Barnabas as well as one of the companions of Peter while in Babylon (1 Peter 5). He is also called John Mark. Mark wrote his gospel about 67 or 68 A.D.

### Luke

Luke is the author of two books. He not only wrote the gospel that bears his name, but also the book of Acts. He often traveled with the Apostle Paul, and was a companion during Paul's imprisonment. He wrote the book of Acts about 61 A.D., and his gospel about 58 A.D.

### John

John, like Matthew, was one of the Apostles chosen by our Lord. He wrote the four books bearing his name, and the book of Revelation. The four were written between the years 85 A.D. and 90 A.D., while Revelation was probably in 96 A.D. There are several men in the Bible by the name of John, but this man is identified as the brother of James, and the "*one whom the Lord Loved*".

## **Peter**

Peter was another Apostle who wrote by inspiration. He is also Cephas as well as Simon. He is the author of the two epistles bearing his name which were written, one shortly after the other in 64 or 65 A.D.

## **Paul**

Paul wrote more books of the New Testament than any other writer, having thirteen credited to his pen with many scholars also listing Hebrews as his work. He was very zealous for the cause of Christ, and this zeal is often revealed in his writing.

Books credited to Paul are: 1 and 11 Thessalonians, written about 50 or 51 A.D.; 1 and 11 Corinthians about 54 and 55 A.D.; Galatians and Romans about 55 and 56 A.D.; Ephesians was written about 58 or 59 A.D. along with the book of Colossians; the letter to Philemon followed by Philippians appeared in 60 and 61 A.D.; then probably 1 Timothy and Titus were written in 65 A.D. Apparently 11 Timothy was the book written in 68 A.D., therefore if Paul wrote the book of Hebrews it was probably about 67 A.D.

Paul was not only chosen of God to write, but was appointed to be an Apostle to the Gentiles. His untiring efforts led him through most of Europe and Asia. He never overlooked an opportunity to preach the gospel to his own brethren, trying always to encourage them to turn to Jesus from the Law.

## **Jude**

Jude wrote one book. Not much is known about this man. Some have said he was the brother of our Lord, and he could well have been (Matthew 13:55). He must have written his book about 70 or 75 A.D.

## **James**

James apparently wrote his epistle somewhere around 62 A.D. He is generally believed to be the James that is referred to as the "*brother of the Lord*". There are at least four "James" in the New Testament that might have been the author, and it is difficult to be certain, but most of the available evidence supports the brother of the Lord as the author.

Thus, these eight writers have given us the New Covenant. Four of these writers were Apostles. They were guided by the inspiration of God, and this Covenant has been preserved by Him. This New Testament is now the guide for all humanity to eternity with God.

## Devine Inspiration

Several times the word “Inspiration” has been used to denote the source of guidance in writing the New Testament. What is meant by inspiration? Does this simply mean the writers of the New Testament were inspired in the same way in which the poet is inspired, or does inspiration of the scriptures convey more than the human thought?

We need only to read some scriptures to point out evidence that the writers of the Bible were expressing more than the thoughts and ideas of men. Paul said *“all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”* (11 Timothy 3:16, 17). He reveals that all scripture is given by the inspiration of God, not man.

Peter states, *“for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”* (11 Peter 1:21) Not only did the holy men of God speak by the power of God, but also the writers of the New Covenant were guided in the same manner, God through these men assured all men of all ages divine guidance through His inspired word.

James said, *“wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your soul”* (James 1:21). Since the word, is inspired of God, and is able to save the soul of man, it only follows that it is divinely inspired. The conclusion is based on the premise that only God can give eternal life.

*“Examine yourself, whether ye be in faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates”* (11 Corinthians 13:5). Every person should examine himself and see if he is in faith. To prove your faith and confidence in God and his word look to the Old Testament prophesies and their fulfillment in the New Covenant. If these prophets were able tell things that would come to pass hundreds of years after they were spoken, it should supply the evidence to prove your faith. Only through divine guidance could things be made known that would happen in detail as the prophet spoke. Men sometimes speak of some incidents that will take place in a few years, but never in hundreds of years.

In Isaiah 53 we have a vivid prophecy of the Lord Jesus Christ. Seven hundred years later Phillip began at the *“same scripture”* (Acts 8:35) and preached “Jesus”. Only through the power of God could such events come to pass. When Jesus in all his suffering and death fulfilled this prophecy as Isaiah had spoken, it furnished the evidence needed to prove our faith.

Another interesting prophecy is recorded in Daniel the second Chapter. The great image of gold, silver, brass, and iron, Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar, represented the great kingdoms of world that would come into existence. He then revealed that in the days of

the last kingdom mentioned that the God of Heaven would set up a kingdom. This kingdom (a spiritual institution) was to last forever.

The third chapter of Luke reveals the fulfillment of this prophecy just as the prophet said, showing it could only have been the work of God through men. Peter also said in Acts 2:16 “this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel”. Again revealing fulfillment of prophecy which cannot be denied and further supplying evidence needed to prove faith in God and His word. Many other scriptures such as Psalms 16 and 22 are fulfilled in Acts 2 concerning Jesus Christ, but the ones already cited should be enough evidence to prove our faith.

Proving your faith in God and His word is very important. It provides the strength to sustain us when men try to place doubt in our hearts about God. Every person ought to be sure of what he believes, and why.

## Questions

### Instructions

This course of Bible Study has been written and printed in Jamaica especially for you living in this Country. It is designed to help you learn about the Bible and what to do to be saved in eight simple lessons. Before beginning, please make sure you understand what to do.

1. Read each paragraph carefully making sure you understand the information given before proceeding to new material.
2. As you come across Bible references be sure and use your Bible to read each scripture mentioned.
3. When you have completed a study of the given material, try to answer all the questions from memory without looking back to the information.
4. When you have answered the questions, please check them with the given material so as to have the correct answer.
5. When the test has been completed, be sure to include Name Address and Date in The space provided below

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## How Much Have You Learned?

### Instructions

In order to get the most from this lesson, the student should answer all the questions in this section. Complete the test and mail it to the sponsor of the Correspondence Course. It will be graded and returned to you along with the next lesson.

### True or False

Circle "T" if statement is true, and circle "F" if any part is not true

1. (T F) God spoke through Jeremiah the prophet saying he would make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
2. (T F) The New Covenant is also known as the New Testament.
3. (T F) There are 39 books in the New Testament.
4. (T F) There were ten writers of the New Covenant.
5. (T F) The New Testament has been translated into more than one thousand (1000) languages.
6. (T F) Paul wrote at least thirteen books of the New Covenant.
7. (T F) Luke was a collector of taxes.
8. (T F) Inspiration of the scriptures came by the will of man.
9. (T F) Phillip preached "Jesus" from the Old Testament book of Isaiah.
10. (T F) Daniel spoke to Nebuchadnezzar about the kingdom of God.

### Answer the following Questions in as Few Words as Possible

1. How many scholars translated the King James Version of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many writers of the New Testament were Apostles? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many books did the Apostle John write? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are the scriptures inspired by of God or man? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Write in few words why you have faith in the Bible as the word of God.

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## Answer the following Questions by Filling in the Blanks

1. Jeremiah said the time would come when God would make a \_\_\_\_\_ with the house of Judah and Israel.
2. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Testament (Hebrews 9:15).
3. The King James Version of the Bible was translated into English in the Year \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Writers of the New Covenant were guided by the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ wrote the book of Acts.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ wrote the book of Jude.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ wrote the book of Philemon.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ wrote the book of Revelation
9. Peter quoted the prophet \_\_\_\_\_ in saying, “this is that .....
10. Parts of Psalms sixteen (16) and twenty- one (21) are fulfilled in the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter of Acts.

## Please Notice

1. Friends may be enrolled in this Bible Correspondence Course upon request without cost or obligation.
2. A beautiful certificate of completion will be presented to those who successfully complete all eight lessons.
3. Bible questions are welcomed. Write them in the space provided below on this page.
4. Contact the address sending the Bible correspondence Course for any assistance in spiritual needs or problems.

## Questions

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## Bible Answers to Above Questions

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### Sponsoring Congregation

This Correspondence Course is being sent to you by:

Patrick Gardens Church of Christ  
6 Waterhouse Drive  
(Off Washington Blvd.)  
Kingston 20  
Tel. 876 933-5550

### Join us for worship

Sunday	9:45 am	Bible School (for adults and children)
	10:30 am	Morning Worship
	5:00 pm	Youth Meeting
	7:00 pm	Evening Worship
Wednesday	7:30	Bible Study and Prayer Meeting (In this session you are permitted to ask questions and make comments.)

You are also invited to listen to **“Preparing for Eternity”** Wednesdays at 4:45am on  
RJR

Write to Us at: P.O. Box 369 Kingston 8